International Atomic Energy Agency
GENERAL CONFERENCE

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Supplementary item for inclusion in the provisional agenda

1. On 11 August 1998, the Director General received a request for the inclusion of an item entitled "Nuclear Testing" in the agenda for the forty-second regular session of the General Conference.

2. Pursuant to Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure[1], the requested item is set out below as a supplementary item:

A. Nuclear Testing

On 11 August 1998, the Director General received a joint request from Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand for the inclusion of this item in the agenda for the Conference's forty-second regular session. An explanatory memorandum, required under Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, is reproduced overleaf.

[1] GC(XXXI)/INF/245/Rev.1.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY AUSTRALIA, CANADA, JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND

Each of our Governments sees the recent nuclear tests carried on by India and then Pakistan as a challenge to the integrity of the global non-proliferation regime and the NPT, the cornerstone of that regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. These tests are also a challenge to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a treaty already signed by 150 Governments around the world. The CTBT was one of the principal objectives endorsed by the thirty-ninth General Conference of the IAEA in 1995 in Resolution GC(39)/RES/23. That resolution explicitly called on all States to desist from further nuclear testing.

This issue was included on the Agenda for the session of the Board of Governors beginning on June 8 of this year and discussed by the Board.

As the Statute of the Agency makes clear, the Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. The Agency is also enjoined to conduct its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to promote peace and international co-operation and in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded worldwide disarmament and in conformity with any international agreements entered into pursuant to such policies. The Statute further makes clear that the General Conference may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of this Statute and may make recommendations to the membership of the Agency or to the Board of Governors or to both on any such question or matters.